



IMPACT REPORT

2025–2026 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
SCHOLARSHIP IMPACT | 2025–26 AWARDS

At Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, access to legal education is not an abstraction. It is a student who stays enrolled, sits for the bar exam and returns to the community that needs a lawyer. This report reflects the generosity of those who made that possible.



A LETTER FROM THE DEAN

The Case For Access Has Never Been Stronger

Dear AJMLS Family and Friends,

As we close another fiscal year at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, I am grateful for the many people who continue to believe in our students and our mission.

This year, **97 donors contributed \$749,877** helping to provide scholarships, emergency assistance, and other critical support for our students. Because of your support, **TEN new scholarships** were created including the Student Emergency Relief Fund, the Honorable Ronald Ramsey Sr. Legacy Scholarship,

the Thomas Sampson Sr. Excellence in Leadership and Law Scholarship and the Friends of Dean Ellin Scholarship.

These gifts make a real difference. They help students stay in school, prepare for the bar exam and begin their careers in the legal profession.

Thank you for believing in our students and investing in their future. **As we begin FY27, I invite you to continue standing with Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and the next generation of lawyers.**

Martin L. Ellin

DEAN & CEO, ATLANTA'S JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL

What Your Giving Made Possible

All figures reflect gifts received August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2026

\$749,877 TOTAL RAISED FY2025-2026	97 DONORS AND ORGANIZATIONS	151 INDIVIDUAL GIFTS RECEIVED
27 FUNDS SUPPORTED BY NAME	10 NEW FUNDS CREATED THIS YEAR	8 RECURRING MONTHLY DONORS

DEMAND VS. CAPACITY

Student Who Applied for Scholarships	80+
Students Awarded Scholarships	35+

Giving in Action

The Student Emergency Relief Fund, established this year, received strong support through \$25 and \$50 gifts to help students facing immediate financial challenges.

379 Students. One Shared Commitment.

Our students come from different backgrounds and at different stages of life, but many share the challenge of balancing the demands of law school with work and financial responsibilities. For many, a law degree represents a first-generation path to graduate education and a significant step toward their professional goals.



69%

MINORITY STUDENTS

63%

FEMALE

28

AVERAGE AGE

73%

GEORGIA RESIDENTS

4%

MILITARY SERVICE

17%

HOLD AN ADVANCED
DEGREE

78

UNDERGRADUATE
INSTITUTIONS

5

NATIVE LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

82%

of entering students received a merit scholarship this year — more than \$2.7 million awarded. Donor-funded scholarships are what carries them the rest of the way.

SOURCE: ATLANTA'S JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL QUICK FACTS, 2026

How Scholarships Make a Difference

AJMLS students are preparing for careers that serve communities across Georgia and beyond. Many balance law school with work, family, and financial responsibilities, leaving little room for unexpected expenses.

Scholarships provide more than financial assistance. They give students the stability to stay enrolled, focus on

their studies, prepare for the bar, and complete their legal education.

That investment extends beyond graduation. Our scholarship recipients take their education into their communities and, in many cases, return to AJMLS to give back to the next generation of students.



“I choose to give back to AJMLS because it afforded me the opportunity for a rewarding second career — one that now allows me to give back to AJMLS and to the community at large. I truly count it a privilege.”

**PAMELA MCCLOUD · AJMLS ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER ·
THE MCCLOUD LAW FIRM**

Hear From Our Recipients

Every scholarship tells a story that numbers alone don't capture. These are a few of the students who received support this year — in their own words, describing what it meant to have one less obstacle between them and the finish line.



CLASS OF 2026
STATHAM, GA
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Madeline Townsend

GORINSHTEYN & WATKINS LLC LAW JOURNAL FELLOWSHIP

"This scholarship has lightened some financial burden and allowed me to focus on my coursework and bar prep endeavors, and has likewise inspired me to continue striving to give back to the community. It helps me focus on these goals and not whether I can afford bar prep or tuition fees in my final semester."

INTERESTS: TRANSACTIONAL · CORPORATE · ESTATES · CRIMINAL DEFENSE



CLASS OF 2026
DECATUR, GA
BARD COLLEGE
THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

Jadyn Gray-Hough

GEORGIA BAR SUCCESS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

"I am honestly in shock and overcome with gratitude, because the costs certainly add up. I am feeling so blessed — and I promise to give my all to my bar preparation this summer."

INTERESTS: ENTERTAINMENT · CRIMINAL · TRANSACTIONAL



Estebania Cabrera

MELISSA HAMRICK SCHOLARSHIP

"This scholarship will help ease my financial burden and allow me to focus more fully on my studies and professional development. I am grateful for this support, which enables me to continue thriving academically while honoring Melissa Hamrick's enduring legacy."

INTEREST: EMPLOYMENT

CLASS OF 2028
BRONX, NY
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE
ENGLISH & ART HISTORY



Aaron Ridenour

JOHN E. RYAN · MCCLOUD LAW FIRM ·
WALKER LAW & ASSOCIATES LLC · TL4JGA FUTURE
TRIAL LAWYER

"This is truly a gift and it could not have come at a better time of financial need. I will not let you down and promise to fight every day for the people."

INTEREST: CRIMINAL · PUBLIC DEFENSE

CLASS OF 2026
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
UNIV. OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Named Scholarship Funds

For the 2025–26 academic year, students received named scholarships made possible through donor-established funds.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

Melissa Harris

ANDY CRAWFORD SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Avrunin

BOBBY LEE COOK SCHOLARSHIP

Deeandra Patterson

DEAN'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Maria Jarman
Tyler McGrath
Adrianna Prosdocimo
Michael Springer
Grace Vigar

FRY | GOEHRING LAW FIRM SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Cress

GEORGIA BAR SUCCESS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Jaydn Gray-Hough
Justin Mgbeokwere

GORINSHTEYN & WATKINS LLC LAW JOURNAL FELLOWSHIP

Madeline Townsend

JMLS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Kamill Dawkins
Andres Rincon

JOHN E. RYAN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Aaron Ridenour

JUDGE G. ALAN BLACKBURN SCHOLARSHIP

Ramsey Ayikwei
Michael Cress

MELISSA HAMRICK SCHOLARSHIP

Estebania Cabrera

NEW GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP

Yusuf Elmarakby
Melissa Harris
Brian Jaramillo
Amina Mashhour
Jalaya Pressley

S. BRADLEY HOUCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Justin Huggins

THE MCCLOUD LAW FIRM AWARD

Deeandra Patterson
Aaron Ridenour
Yajaira Vanegas

TL4JGA FUTURE TRIAL LAWYER SCHOLARSHIP

Aaron Ridenour

WALKER LAW & ASSOCIATES LLC SCHOLARSHIP

Aaron Ridenour
Yajaira Vanegas

Summer Stipends and Bar Support

These awards were made possible through the John Marshall Law School Fund — the school's unrestricted fund. This flexible support allows us to respond to students needs at critical moments: when a student is dedicating their summer to public service without a paycheck, and when a new graduate is pouring everything into bar preparation.

Public Interest Summer Stipend

10 RECIPIENTS

Kyle Cobb
Briana Coreus
Yusuf Elmarakby
Melissa Harris
Maurisia Hodge
Amina Mashhour
Nida Merchant
Amy Montalvo-Pichardo
Tiwajope Odeyemi
Aliyah Perez

Stipends make it possible for students to pursue unpaid placements in public defense, legal aid, or government offices without having to choose between gaining valuable experience and meeting their financial needs.

Bar Preparation Award

9 RECIPIENTS

Timecca Cordero
Devin Eady
Taylor Evers
Kirby Ferry
Azalea Hutchins
Khrystyn Linder
Ishlah Muhammad
Terrica Washington
Taylor Williams

Bar courses and exam fees come at a critical time, when many graduates have little or no income. This award helps close that gap, giving graduates the support they need to focus on preparing for the bar.

Ten New Funds. One Year. Lasting Impact.

Each fund below was established during FY2025–2026 by a donor, law firm, or family who saw a need and decided to make a lasting investment in our students.

Attorneys' Title Guaranty Fund
Scholarship

Judge Ronald Ramsey Sr. Legacy
Scholarship

Empowerment Solutions Award

New Georgia Scholarship

Estate and Probate Law Scholarship

Student Emergency Relief Fund

Friends of Dean Ellin Scholarship

Thomas G. Sampson Sr. Excellence
and Leadership in Law Scholarship

Georgia Civil Justice Foundation
Trial Advocacy Scholarship

Walker Law & Associates LLC
Scholarship

\$25,000

Can establish an endowed fund in your name,
your law firm's name, or in honor or memory of
someone special.*

**An endowed fund is invested so the principal remains intact, allowing it to exist
in perpetuity and provide support for generations to come.**

Giving Circles

The following donors are recognized by giving level for fiscal year 2025–2026. From endowed gifts to emergency support, every contribution represented here made a huge difference for our students.

Challenger Circle | \$100,000+

Georgia Civil Justice Foundation, Inc.	New Georgia Project, Inc.
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Leaders Circle | \$10,000–\$24,999

Dr. Michael C. Markovitz	Pamela McCloud	Anthony D. Walker
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Founders Circle | \$5,000–\$9,999

Attorneys’ Title Guaranty Fund, Inc.	Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association GAPABA*	Nicholas C. Rowley
Gate City Bar Association*	Michael Gorinshteyn	Tyler Watkins
		Joseph Wilson

Deans Circle | \$1,000–\$4,999

Sarah P. Cornejo	Donald Jordan	Michael D. Murphy
Hon. William Duffey*	Linda Klein	Hon. Daniel J. Nagel
Dean Martin L. Ellin	Kayla V. Kudratt	Whitnie C. Riden
Hon. Ural Glanville	Veronica Kulon	Greg Riggs
Gulliana L. Goehring	Kareemah L. Lewis	Luis R. Scott
Mark Green	Dr. Scott Loveless	Zaira D. Solano
Edward J. Hardrick	Adam Malone	Eric K. and Hon. Pinkie Toomer
Henderson Brady LLP	Corey B. Martin	Jack and Amy Wilen
Gary and Della Houck	Teri McClure	
Shilpa Jadwani	Glenda F. Mitchell	

**Denotes a Gift-In-Kind Donation*

Friends Of AJMLS

This year, donors at the Friends level supported the law school through gifts of \$25 to \$50. Their collective support demonstrates that every gift makes a difference.

Friends | UNDER \$1,000

Phyllis Adams	Karen English	Kelley Pilcher
Wendy Aina	Cheryl Ferebee	Tanya Pinto
Judith M. Alembik	Dean Emeritus Jace C. Gatewood	Professor Alison Prout
Ginger C. Arnold	Judson L. Green	Professor Jonathan Rapping
Dean Judith Barger	Dean Sheryl Harrison	Hon. Franklin D. Rozier
Eddie Beal	Brandon James	Mychal Scates
Dean M. Scott Boone	Fred Jeffcoate	Hon. Janet C. Scott*
Hermelda Branford	Professor Browning Jeffries	Professor Nicholas Smith
Sue Burkhart	James R. Jester	Debbie Stewart
Urban Cleaves	Louis S. Keilman	Angela Sumpter
Professor Emma Cohen	William D. Kelly	Stanley J. Turner, P.C.
Michelle Cooper	Carol A. Kettler	Professor Jeff Van Detta
Patricia R. Crawford	Professor Bruce G. Luna	Hilary Waldo
Professor Kari Dalton	Professor Suparna Malempati	Hon. Duncan D. Wheale
Donald A. Damico	Joseph McAdams	Dr. Mary Wilson
Phillip Daniel	Professor Tanya D. McAdams	Paul Wilson
Arthur J. Doucett	Professor Lance McMillian	
Hon. Ashley Drake	Dean Rebecca Milter	

\$25

Many donors made a gift of \$25 to the Student Emergency Relief Fund this year.

**Denotes a Gift-In-Kind Donation*

A Legacy of Loyalty

The Charter Society

The Charter Society recognizes donors who have supported Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School every fiscal year since the school became an independent 501(c)(3) in 2021. Their continued commitment has been part of AJMLS from the very beginning.

Wendy Aina	Tracie K. Henderson	Adam Malone
A.J. Doucett	Gary and Della Houck	Dr. Michael C. Markovitz
Hon. Ashley Drake	Shilpa D. Jadwani	Corey B. Martin
Randy E. Fry	Fred Jeffcoate	Dean Rebecca Milter
Dean Emeritus Jace C. Gatewood	James R. Jester	Angela Sumpter
Gulliana Goehring	D. Wesley Jordan	

The Gatewood Society

The Gatewood Society — named in honor of Dean Emeritus Jace C. Gatewood — recognizes donors who have made a gift to AJMLS for three or more consecutive fiscal years. Their continued commitment is a powerful expression of loyalty and provides a reliable foundation for our students and the school.

Phyllis Adams	William D. Kelly	Tanya Pinto
Judith M. Alembik	Carol A. Kettler	Zaira D. Solano
Dean M. Scott Boone	Kayla V. Kudratt	Stanley J. Turner
Sarah P. Cornejo	Professor Bruce G. Luna	Tyler Watkins
Hon. Ural Glanville	Michael D. Murphy	Joseph Wilson
Michael Gorinshteyn	Nicholas C. Rowley	Dr. Mary Wilson

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These donors provided consistent support throughout the year through recurring gifts. Their ongoing commitment provides a dependable foundation for AJMLS students and the school.

Wendy Aina	Professor Tanya D. McAdams	Angela Sumpter
Dean Martin L. Ellin	Pamela McCloud	Anthony D. Walker
Veronica Kulon	Debbie Stewart	

Looking Ahead to Next Year

One Time Gift

A single gift of any size can support the fund you choose or provide immediate assistance through the Student Emergency Relief Fund.

Give Monthly

Recurring gifts allow us to commit aid before the semester begins, helping students stay enrolled rather than waiting until a financial challenge forces them to withdraw.

Name A Fund

A \$25,000 gift establishes an endowed award in your name, your firm's name, or in honor or memory of someone special — supporting a student every year, in perpetuity.

Include AJMLS In Your Estate

A bequest can create a lasting legacy without affecting your current financial plans. It can establish a scholarship that supports AJMLS students for generations to come. We are happy to provide sample language for you to review with your attorney or financial advisor.

More than 80 students applied for scholarship assistance this year. We were able to award scholarships to more than 35. The gap between those numbers represents the work still ahead of us.

For additional information on giving and sponsorship opportunities please reach out to:

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Atlanta's John Marshall Law School's Impact Report was published by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Every effort has been made to publish an accurate report regarding gifts to the Law School. If, however, you feel any information contained in this report is incorrect, contact Wendy Aina at (678) 916-2674 or waina@johnmarshall.edu

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

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